

# Mid-AMWAzup

**AMERICAN MEDICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION**  
**MID-AMERICA CHAPTER**



## Welcome

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What an exciting time to be a member of the AMWA Mid-America Chapter! All the details of our upcoming conference in KC are included in this issue. The registration forms must be filled out by Friday, April 4, 2008 so you don't have a lot of time to dilly-dally, which brings me to my apology. The production of the third Mid-AMWAzup issue has been fraught with delays due to mishaps and illness. That's the bad news. The good news, from my selfish perspective, is that I've recommitted to putting more effort into honing my organization skills. The first step is admitting that there is a problem.

It became apparent to me that there was a problem when I found myself actually writing on a paper perched on a lumpy pile instead of a hard desk surface. There are 3 desks in my mid-sized basement office. When they filled with stacks my first solution was to requisition some small end tables from other areas of the house. As I glance around today I see that there are textbooks, library books, shopping bags, stacks of papers, notebooks, computer

equipment, a turntable (have you tried getting out your old vinyl albums and converting them to digital? Very fun! Takes a lot of time, but the walks down memory lane... Oh yea... organization), a dog leash, several class schedules, and a mini-organizer (old school, never used it) piled on these additional surfaces. That's right, this is the stuff that would not fit on my desks, and no, I'm not going to document what resides on the desks regardless of how desperate I am for text to fill this belated welcome letter.

Okay, the point is that I realize where the problem lies; it's me. My mind wanders and, well, as I glance around, I'm not sure how I get anything accomplished through all this mess. For some reason, when it comes to text, organizing a paper, editing and reediting, getting all those punctuation ducks in a row, that is my real joy, a therapeutic salve to soothe my real-world chaos. Well, time to sign off and get back to my real job, pecking away at the keyboard.

Hope to see you in KC on May 2-3!

—Tad Coles, DVM

## Update: Mid-America Chapter Conference

Don't miss our chapter conference! The final schedule of events is listed on page 4.

You can download a conference registration form from our chapter web site:

<http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/>.

Registration forms are due by Friday, April 4, 2008.

If you are not able to attend the conference on Saturday, May 3, you are still welcome to

attend the dinner on Friday May 2. Please RSVP as described on page 4. Thank you!

—Joanne McAndrews, PhD

[See page 4 for info on scheduling, lodging and other details](#)



## Supporting Pediatric Cancer Research



AMWA member Cheryl Mozer and her family are the Kansas City area coordinators for Alex's Lemonade Stand for Pediatric Cancer Research. They are the parents of two boys, Nick and Jacob. Jacob, now 11 years old, is a childhood cancer survivor of Stage 4 (late-stage) neuroblastoma. He was diagnosed when he was 16 months old.

Alex Scott was a cancer patient with the same type of cancer Jacob had. She wanted to raise money for childhood cancer by having a lemonade stand in her front yard to help other children with cancer. She wanted her efforts to go nationwide in 2004, and that is when the Mozer family got involved with Alex's Lemonade Stand for Pediatric Cancer Research. They opened their first stand in 2004 at the Hy-Vee Grocery Store in Blue Springs, Missouri and raised \$5000. In 2005, they expanded these stands to all Hy-Vees in the Kansas City Metro area, and have served as the Kansas City area coordinators ever since.

### THE DREAM CONTINUES

Sadly, Alex Scott passed away at the age of 8 in 2004, but her dream continues. Since 2004,

more than \$183,000 has been raised for the Foundation in Kansas City alone, thanks to the dedication of volunteers, the Kansas City community, corporate sponsors, family and friends of volunteers across the country, office fundraisers such as "pay to wear jeans to work week," and the media in Kansas City.

### A LABOR OF LOVE

The Mozer's are proud of the generosity of those who have donated so much of their time, talents, and treasure to this cause. Now that federal funding for childhood cancer research is decreasing, it is private foundations such as Alex's that are bridging the gap. Childhood cancer is still the number one cause of death by disease in children and there is much more work to be done. Jacob is a miracle and it is great to be able to try and help other kids have a chance to survive.

This year's dates are Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7, 2008 from 10 am to 6 pm at all 25 metro area Hy-Vee Grocery Stores in Missouri: Belton, Blue Springs, Gladstone, Independence, Kansas City, Lee's Summit, Liberty, Raytown, and St. Joseph; Kansas: Lawrence,

all 25 Kansas City lemonade stands each year. This is a great service project for Scout troops, youth groups, sports teams, church groups, students needing service hours, and any adult. All supplies are donated and it is a great way to give back to the community and help find a cure for childhood cancer. If you are interested in volunteering or your office wishes to be a corporate sponsor or do an office fundraiser, please contact Cheryl at 816-224-8709 (home), 913-410-2365 (work), or email

[mcmozer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcmozer@sbcglobal.net).



To learn more, visit: <http://www.alexlemonade.org/KClemnade.php>

## President's Letter

As previously mentioned, the AMWA Mid-America Chapter workshop is just around the corner and it promises to be enlightening and fun.

Joanne McAndrews, Carol Sonderman, Julie Henry, and Loga Ganesh have done the bulk of the work to make this happen and I cannot thank them enough!

Even if you do not plan to attend the workshops, please consider joining us for the opening reception dinner on Friday evening before the conference and for the chapter business meeting to elect officers, which will be held right after the lunch on May 3. As our bylaws currently stand, we are not

allowed to elect officers through an absentee vote or via electronic means (e.g. e-mail). However, we can propose changes to this method and submit this to the national AMWA headquarters for consideration at the next Board of Directors meeting.

At the luncheon business meeting, I will open the floor to suggestions on altering the method of election of officers so that more chapter members can get involved with the election process.

Members wishing to attend just the lunch/business meeting without going to the rest of the conference pay only \$15 for the meal. If you are not able to attend

the business meeting but have an idea you would like to share, please feel free to e-mail me with your suggestion before the meeting so that the idea can be included in the discussions.

I understand that other chapters have adopted electronic methods of officer election and we can discuss those options as well. Since our election process will have to be approved, we will not be able to use electronic means for the 2008 elections, but hopefully the changes will be in place for the 2009 election cycle.

I'll see you in Kansas City in May!

—Donna Coffman, MD

## Conference Specifics

### SCHEDULE

#### Friday May 2, 2008

6:30 PM—Opening reception and dinner at Café Verona, 206 W. Lexington, Independence, MO, (816) 833-0044. Please RSVP to Joanne McAndrews at [jmmcandrews@earthlink.net](mailto:jmmcandrews@earthlink.net) by Friday, April 25, 2008. Participants will be responsible for paying for their food and drink.

#### Saturday May 3, 2008

Harry S. Truman Library and Museum  
500 W. U.S. Highway 24  
Independence, MO (Kansas City area)

- 8:00 AM—Registration opens
- 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM—Breakfast roundtable “Top 10 Free Web Sites for Medical Writers” led by Joanne M. McAndrews, PhD, Freelance Medical Writer, St. Louis, Missouri
- 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM—Advanced workshop-- Understanding Sample Size and Study Power (ADV) [729] taught by Bart Harvey, MD, PhD, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM—Luncheon and chapter business meeting-- Just a reminder to all our members, the chapter business meeting held right after lunch includes voting for next years’ officers. Members wishing to attend just the lunch/business meeting pay only \$15 for the meal. Simply fill out the appropriate sections of the conference registration form mentioned above.



- 2 PM – 5 PM—Core Curriculum workshop - Statistics for Medical Writers and Editors (G) [110] taught by Bart Harvey, MD, PhD, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- 2 PM – 3:30 PM—Roundtable discussion “Basic overview of clinical study design” led by Cindy Dempsey, RN, MPH, Medical Writer, MDS Pharma Services, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 6 PM—Kansas City-style barbecue at the home of Mid-America chapter member Kathi Whitman. Please RSVP to Kathi at [kwhitman@incredibleenglish.com](mailto:kwhitman@incredibleenglish.com) by Friday, April 25, 2008.

### NEARBY LODGING

- Hilton Garden Inn- Independence  
19677 E. Jackson Drive  
Independence, MO 64057  
816-350-3000
- Olive Branch Inn (within walking distance of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum)  
200 N. Delaware  
Independence, MO 64050  
816-836-0292
- Residence Inn by Marriott-Independence  
3700 S. Arrowhead Avenue  
Independence, MO 64057  
816-795-6466
- Holiday Inn Express Inn and Suites- Independence  
19901 E Valleyview Parkway  
Independence, MO 64057  
816-795-8889

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